

WORK TO CONTINUE FOR BATHING BEACH

Board of Trade Committee Un-
daunted by Lack of Appro-
priation in D. C. Bill.

NEED OF THE POOLS
SHOWN IN ITS REPORT

Secretary of War Favors the Idea.
Senator Norris Expected
to Assist.

Although members of the committee on parks and reservations of the Board of Trade were disappointed to learn that the District appropriation bill which was reported from the House committee on appropriations Saturday carries no provisions for a municipal bathing beach in the tidal basin in Potomac Park, it is not believed that the session will close without progress in this direction. Neither does the bill carry any appropriation for the existing municipal swimming pools, although a request for \$4,730 to enlarge one of the pools for colored bathers had been made.

The parks and reservations committee of the board favors the building of a municipal bathing beach in the basin, and now that the District appropriation bill contains no provisions for such an improvement, it will look to Senator Norris of Nebraska for assistance. Senator Norris is a firm believer in the necessity of a bathing beach and is the author of a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for his opinion as to the feasibility of such a beach in the tidal basin. It is stated that Senator Norris may either introduce an amendment to the District appropriation bill providing money with which to construct a municipal bathing beach or introduce a separate bill providing for this improvement.

Lacks Bathing Beaches.

After quoting the letter of the Secretary of War to the president of the Senate in response to a resolution of August 25 relative to the building of a public bathing beach, the committee in its report states:

"Washington long has been singular among leading American cities for its lack of public bathing facilities, which the tidal basin under the plans just approved will supply. There is much evidence that this lack of so essential a provision for the comfort and health of this great city has already been noted in high quarters. The city press, always alert and mindful of the public needs, has not failed to call repeated attention to the subject, and in the annual report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for the year ending June 30, 1909, the following occurs: 'Washington is the only city of any size in the United States which cannot give a municipal bath to its citizens or its visitors. Free baths have been furnished for fifteen years all the year around by Chicago to its citizens or its visitors. Baltimore, Brooklyn, New York, Albany, Syracuse, Cleveland, San Francisco and a score of smaller cities have followed the lead of the more progressive cities.'

"Further pursuing the subject, the same report continues: 'With a water front such as this city it seems a shame that it is not provided with a good bathing beach in place of the present unsatisfactory place used for a swimming pool.' . . . What we need is a first-class beach provided with permanently constructed buildings; such a location could be obtained on the west bank of the tidal basin, and would not interfere in any way with improvements that have been made by the government in the park."

Will Add to Improvements.

"Our committee will add to the above quotation that so far from interfering in any way with improvements already made in the park, the plan devised under the direction of the Secretary of War and approved by him in the letter already quoted, will be a notable and attractive addition to existing improvements, and while adding embellishment to Potomac Park, it will also administer to the comfort and the health of citizens and visitors alike.

"It seems to your committee that the tidal basin is remarkably well

adapted to the purpose, for it is commended by the Secretary of War. 'Its area, comprising about 100 acres, is sufficient for all purposes. 'While it is not too deep for safety, it is deep enough for sport, being an average depth of about eight feet. Its water will be changed twice every day by the ebb and flow of the tide. 'It is not too distant from the center of population, and is easily accessible from every part of the District. 'In the hot season its lure will appeal to all, young and old, citizen and visitor alike; no matter for what purpose they may have entered the park, the cooling bath will surely tempt them.

Cement Walk Plans.

"A cement walk is already projected to start from the Panama-American building on 17th street, running direct to the Paul Jones statue, thence turning to the right and following the margin of the tidal basin to the river. This walk is to be completed in time for use another season.

"Of course, the establishment of this bathing beach, for the general public should not interfere in the least with the plans for swimming pools in connection with public playgrounds in various parts of the District which will be utilized in teaching the younger children to swim. The two projects supplement each other, the school playground swimming pool aiding in the child's education, while the bathing beach is for adults and all classes.

"If this project goes through as we hope it may, credit will be due to Senator Norris of Nebraska, who took the initial step in its behalf, by the introduction of Senate resolution 421. Sixty-third Congress, second session."

GRAVE CHARGES AGAINST THE EUROPEAN STARLING

Its Fondness for Fruits and Habits
of Nesting May Prevent It Being
Given Protection.

When it comes to devouring bugs the European starling is "markedly insectivorous," declares the annual report of the biological survey, just made public. It has not proved destructive to grain crops, and as far as eating noxious bugs is concerned it is to be classed among our useful birds, the report goes on. However—

There are a couple of grave charges against the starling, pretty little bird that he is, that cannot be overlooked in an estimation of his character. European invasion has always been the nightmare of alarmists, and never more than today, when all Europe is at war and seemingly couldn't invade the United States if any section of it wanted to.

Introduced into the United States as a harmless visitor, the starling has gradually extended its range in twenty-five years from New York city to which the first pioneer came, until now the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts wake to the shrill war-cry of bands of starlings.

As Far South as D. C.

It is even declared that starlings occur in considerable numbers as far south as the District of Columbia. This bird is steadily extending its territory, and to save the land from being overrun by the marauder, the report declares: "It will be wise to withdraw all protection from it, as has already been done in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania."

But the startling survey fears that even after all protection is withdrawn the bird probably will prove to be able to take care of itself. Despite all the government can do, "that ultimately it will spread over a large part of the United States is highly probable."

Why is the starling to be feared, since it devourer bugs in great quantities and eateth not grain?

Fond of Small Fruits.

It is known to be very fond of small fruits, that is why the starling is to be feared. It associates in large flocks and is likely to become a pest to the orchardist.

Nor is that all. In addition to its fondness for small fruits, this foreigner does not build its nest in the awing boughs of the wayside trees. Instead of keeping to itself in its own flock, and there consuming at its leisure the small fruits which it has swiped from the busy agriculturists, the starling prefers tree cavities, boxes or recesses in buildings for nesting sites.

Thus the starling is brought into direct competition with certain of the useful native birds—useful to man—more particularly the bluebird, the purple martin, white-bellied swallow, house wren and flicker. So the starling will have to go, even if the democratic administration doesn't have in a protective tariff. The native birds must be protected. And so must the small fruits.



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